Mike, Paul, Gary

Confidential

11/21/68

Dear Lou,

If I did nor regard this as very important, I would not now be taking the time to write you, for as you may perhaps understand, I have been so preoccupied with matters of which you are aware since I left you I have not yet had a chance to empty and refile the contents of my attache case.

You may recall that when I asked you for the Oswald Literature Distribution File (and you have none, despite all the material on this I and my west-coast friends have supplied) you took me to the Archive file and told me to go through the Oswald part. I did. I told you there were some things I'd like to go over and copy and you told me to. I am now doing that. I have not completed it. I have been in touch with Mock about some of what seems to have been ignored or overlooked.

Attached to a copy of Commission Document 961 I find a memo to Jim from Bill Turner that I find impossible to believe he wrote after reading it. It is simply incredible! It is the kind of material that clogs toilets. It assumes all the rats of the other side say is right when it is known to be impossible (as, for example, when Oswald was in Florida, when he could not have been), that such dubious people as Rose and Nagell are the soul and spirit of unquestionable probity when there is absolutely no reason to credit anything either has said of which I know - and and on, an awful bunch of crap. Reading this carefully, I can see the thing that started Jim off on one of his big distractions, Masferrer.

I do not know how much you know about this material, but if you have any familiarity with it, you will know that no rational, honest man with the slightest awareness of fact would dare utter such rubbish. Those guys he takes as oracles have been leading everyone one in circles since the assassination. Read, for example, Martino in 961. Any of these guys is a carbon of Bringuier at his most irrational.

The best that can be said for this is that Turner is a fool, imposing on Jim's friendship and trust. The worst - anything worse - I shudder to think of. I am reminded that on Friday, when Jim was giving his chalk talk, Turner got him to add the location of Omaha to the map!

We all know the too-many wild goose chases on which Jim has been led. I wish someone had kept track of them, or could reconstruct them. There is at least a possibility that this is another working of the Department of Disinformation. I'd like to check this sort of thing out. We might learn much, might prevent tragedies that could be ruinous to what most of us seek and so many have worked so long and so hard for.

This is the first and only of Turner's memos I have seen. I do not know how many there are, but I'd like to be able to go over all of them before I return. I further suggest that Vince also should, and on a crash basis, so he can be prepared. This one is so bad I need only read it to anyone who knows anything and it will been understood for what it is, barn scrapings. In even the little detail, it is fiction, like calling Vance Blalock Bringuier's "protege".

Believe me, this could be a very serious matter. I do not want to take the time from my own writing, from which I have been too long separated. I suggest it because I regard it as that urgency. It looks as though Jim has just been impressed with the play of men with experience in both agencies, trusts them, takes them as authorities, and is wasting himslef and everyone else in one fantasy after another which, at the very least, keep him from the abundant material within his own jurisdiction.

Less significant, there are internal indications of other dishonesties. I know he has lifted the discoveries of others and presented them as his own, for in some cases, I know who did the actual work and where he picked it up. A minor case here is Ramos Ducos. That was picked up, for whatever it is or is not worth, by the Bay Area boys, I think Jim Schmitt. I was given a copy to take to you last February, and I did, without fanfare. The Bob Brown thing, ditto. This, however, is not what Jim thinks.

I just do not think people are selectively honest and dishonest. I'd like to be wrong. Another thing that arouses my suspicions, and I acknowledge perhaps without merit, is his having the tape of my Hall interviews when they should have been being transcribed. As it is, the transcription was not done for months, not until long after Hall was all better and had gone to New Orleans. There is no reason in the world the transcript should not have preceeded him.

As you know, I am seriously troubled that no real work has been done in New Orleans, to the point that even though in time and money I cannot afford it I have been going there to do it. During all this time, one force and influence after another has kept Jim and your office focused on the kind of thing that at the very best you would not dare take into court and can never begin to prove even if it were true, which it is not. As a consequence, what you could and should have done in New Orleans has not been done and daily it becomes more difficult to do as people leave and forget -and perhaps are reached, as with Thornley's friends.

I leave it up to you. There is nothing in this for me. If you agree, I will take the time to go over whatever you send before I return, and I'll try and annotate it as I read it. I then suggest that when I am there we take a day, you, Moo, Alcock, Vince and, if he is there, Bud, and we go over all of this. I think, from this one memo alone, you will see clearly what has happened. I presume the others are no more authentic. Boxley's may be in the same category. If he has written any, that is.

A by-product has been to make a laughing-stock of Jim, tragic with so dedicated a man and for so loyal a staff.

My own schedule is uncertain but flexible. I have not yet seen the doctor for the tests that I postponed to make the recent trip. I see the dentist tomorrow and now that the immediate crisis is past, will try and see the doctor next week, if he has an open appointment. Bud is due back Tuesday, It is he who asked me to go to N.O. and work with him the first two weeks of December. He said he'd pay the costs. My only actual cost is transportation, for I can stay with friends and will eat little or nothing other than with them. After the first of the year, it will be more difficult for me to travel, for my wife will begin working then and I will have to provide her with transportation to and from town. I am determined to use that time for getting more of my material on paper, which is too long delayed now.

If Bud has changed his mind of delays his return, I cannot go down without transportation. Vince said he was going 12/4. If I do not go with Bud, meaning if Bud's plans change, and I do go, there is an early Eastern plane he can catch in Philadelphia and I can get in Baltimore that will have us in New Orleans about 11 a.m., which leaves most of that day for work.

I do hope we all try and get to the bottom of troubling things. It is past time. The danger is great.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg